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10 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Personal Meeting with AEPRIMER/1

1. A personal meeting was held by the undersigned and Mr. Bernhard Mohr with Subject on 8 July 1959, between the hours of 1550 and 1730 in the cocktail lounge of the Governor Clinton Hotel, in New York City, N. Y.

2. The following items of operational interest were discussed:

- a. AEPRIMER/1's Income Tax return.
- b. Termination of AEPRIMER/1's contract.
- c. The photographic tour of Soviet Russia and Byelorussia being made by Subject's relative, Constantine Mierlak.
- d. Contacts with SITNIKOV.
- e. Continuation of the relationship Subject/U.S. Government via the undersigned.

3. The greater portion of the meeting was devoted to the explanation of the method by which Subject's income tax payment was computed. In the end, Mr. Mohr's clarification of a figure omitted by Subject served to conclude the entire tax question to the satisfaction, albeit reluctant, of the Subject. Subject was paid his June salary, and then informed by the undersigned that his contract was being terminated "for the convenience of the government". This was explained by both Mr. Mohr and the undersigned as meaning economy in the government, and sufficient productivity on the part of the Subject. Subject was quite taken aback by the termination but agreed that he as a business man could see that one could not expect to be paid for non-production. Subject stated that he was also aware that he had not devoted as much time to this work as he should have. Subject spoke about the BNR, the anti-communist fight etc. Subject was paid his severance pay and signed a "quit claim". The timely comments and financial acumen of Mr. Mohr contributed greatly to the successful completion of AEPRIMER/1's termination.

Subject showed the undersigned a postal card which he had received from a relative, who is now touring the Soviet Union with his wife. Subject also displayed a bill, forwarded by his relative, amounting to fifteen hundred dollars. Subject stated that he had never been informed that the project had been cancelled and now he felt that reimbursement should be forthcoming from the undersigned. Subject was informed by the undersigned that at no time was it told, or implied to the Subject that the undersigned would undertake such reimbursement. Subject was informed that reports written by the undersigned after each of the personal meetings during which the photo-tour was mentioned, would show that Subject had been

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informed that the undersigned was not committed in any way to any such reimbursement arrangement. Subject was also reminded that he had informed the undersigned that if the photo-tour was not undertaken by the undersigned that he, the Subject would play the photo-tour as a BNR venture and fund it himself from funds available to him for that purpose. Subject deflated quickly. Subject was informed by the undersigned that if he wished the undersigned would be willing to have the color film "looked at" by people who might be interested and who might or might not pay for copies of the film. Subject agreed to this.

Subject requested Mr. Mohr's indulgence stating that he wished to discuss some matters privately with the undersigned. Subject explained to the undersigned that he did not know whether it was permissible to discuss operational matters in front of Mr. Dodge (Mohr), therefore, his request for the private conversation. Subject asked for direction in his relationship with SITNIKOV. He was informed by the undersigned that he was to have no contacts, if possible, until further notice from the undersigned. Subject said this would be a simple matter as he was leaving the next day for a two week vacation. The undersigned said that he would have further direction in this matter upon Subject's return from his vacation.

Subject said that as the undersigned well knew, Subject was recently elected to the Presidency of the Byelorussian-American Association which means leadership over many thousands of Byelorussians in the United States. Subject stated that he was willing to use his position to aid the undersigned in any way possible but that if the termination of his contract was a prelude to the denigration of Subject in the eyes of the Byelorussians, or for any purpose contrary to the good interests of the Byelorussians, that he would be forced to sever all contact with the undersigned and to prevent the undersigned or his fellow-workers from having any contact with the Byelorussians. U.S.A.

Subject was assured that such was not the intent nor the purpose of the termination and that the cancellation was for the purpose as stated. Subject reiterated the role of the BNR, the anti-communist fight etc., stating that he hoped that the termination of his contract did not mean all severance of his relationship with the U.S. Government, as this relationship was of mutual benefit and vital interest to both parties in the fight against Communism. Subject was informed by the undersigned that he should feel free, at any time he felt he had information of interest, to contact the undersigned via the postal box address currently being used for that purpose. The undersigned, upon being asked, assured the Subject that if the postal box address is terminated the undersigned will contact Subject to so inform him and arrange for a new means of contact. Following this there was a re-affirmation of trust and faith between the Subject and the undersigned. Subject and the undersigned re-joined Mr. Mohr whereupon farewells were attended to and the meeting concluded with arrangements for subsequent meetings to be made by telephone.

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Ukrainian/Byelorussian Section